

# Students spread the word to end the word

By GEORDIE KENNEDY

On Wednesday, March 2, a group of students set up a table outside the caf, gathering signatures from lunch goers. Passers-by who signed the large sheet subsequently took a pledge to stop the use of the “R word,” retarded, in reference to the specially abled.

The use of the word is considered disparaging to those with intellectual and developmental disorders (IDD’s) and is widely seen as hate speech toward them. The event was led by the Montevallo chapter of Best Buddies, an international advocacy organization for the rights of the

special needs community. Since its founding in 1989, the organization’s goal has been to promote one-on-one friendship with disabled students as well as to foster job expansion and leadership opportunities within the special needs community. The “Spread the Word to

End the Word” campaign is an extension of Best Buddies’ action in social advocacy and allowed concerned students an opportunity to make a difference in the special needs community. “I’ve grown up working with individuals with IDD’s, and this is an amazing opportunity to work with the campus,” said Amanda Fae Currie, a senior majoring in mass communication and social work. The resulting response from the campus was overwhelmingly positive, allowing the group to collect well over 100 signatures in the hour and a half long function. Students could be spotted throughout the day sporting “I pledged” stickers and carrying pamphlets educating readers on the offensiveness of the word. Anyone interested in learning more about the issue may visit [r-word.org](http://r-word.org), a website which allows concerned parties to pledge their support to the campaign and understand the importance of the issue. The movement for the equality of the special needs community is ongoing, and those interested may get involved on [bestbuddies.org](http://bestbuddies.org) through financial or volunteering opportunities.



Throughout the day, students signed a banner pledging not to use the “r” word.

Reed Strength | The Alabamian

# Thwarted by the iPhone, code-breakers turn their attention to other products

By PARESH DAVE  
Los Angeles Times

Computer hacker Will Strafach had no trouble seizing control of the original iPhone. Same went for later generations over the next five years. But by now, Apple Inc. has introduced so many layers of protection inside its flagship device that Strafach and others have moved on. As the frenzied hacking has subsided, publicly shared solutions to crack iPhone security are becoming harder to come by. The frustration he and other hackers felt has hit law enforcement too. That’s why agencies around the country say Apple is its last hope to unlock hundreds of smartphones important to investigations, and why the FBI is so forcefully going after Apple in its effort to get into the work iPhone of San Bernardino terrorist Syed Rizwan Farook. Whereas a generation of hackers grew up tinkering with iPhones and Androids for fun, today’s up-and-comers thwarted by the near-ironclad security of smartphones are shifting their focus to virtual reality headsets, self-driving cars, the cloud, mobile apps and other emerging online systems with less-tested locks. Hackers like Strafach are instrumental in rooting out vulnerabilities in software and hardware. Their findings are used by specialty technology companies to design tools that extract and ana-

lyze data from devices, which are in turn used by law enforcement, technical consultants for attorneys and repair shops. Nowadays, the more difficult task of smartphone hacking is falling to large, more well-financed teams at cybersecurity firms and secretive government departments, all of which are prone to closely guarding those vulnerabilities for national security reasons rather than sharing them with police. “The better technology gets, the more rarefied and the smaller pool of true old-school hackers you’ll have,” said Greg Buckles, co-founder and principal analyst of forensics industry research firm EDJ Group. iPhone software developer Ryan Petrich said he expects hobbyists to be outgunned within the next two years. “It will be infeasible to develop an exploit outside a large team with very experienced security researchers,” he said. “They will do things like attack specific parts of the system, but you aren’t going to see ... full system access.” Strafach was a big part of the iPhone jailbreaking community, which finds holes in the iPhone operating system that can unleash unauthorized privileges. For example, Apple allows installation of only apps it approves. A jailbroken phone eliminates the restriction. The downside is that jailbreaking risks corrupting the phone permanently if the technical



Graphic by Adrienne Dauma

process goes awry. And demand for jailbreaking tools relaxed as iPhones began to include some of the functionality once available only on jailbroken devices. As a teenager, Strafach would trade jailbreaking tips with about 10 buddies, the Chronic Dev team, in a private online chat room. They’d share their findings for others to use. Jailbreaking tools have been “bit-for-bit critical” for forensics software makers to provide easy ways to read the contacts, messages, app data and other information on smartphones, he said. Getting into the first-generation iPhone, released in 2007, was easy Strafach compares it with finding a loose brick in a wall. But the time he and his

collaborators spent looking for loose bricks increased with each new iPhone and iPhone operating system and there were additional hurdles. It was as if the prize they were after was now also protected by cannons, a moat filled with alligators and a chain-link fence. To make matters worse, software updates would change the order and strength of obstacles. By iOS 7 in 2013, the multi-layered defense was overwhelming. Apple went “wild,” over-securing systems “that didn’t need more security,” Strafach said. He went on to start Groton, Conn.-based Sudo Security Group Inc., which is developing software for businesses to control which apps employees may down-

## NEWS in BRIEF

By DANIELLE STALLWORTH

The 2016 presidential nomination elections continued with primaries or caucuses in five states on “Super Saturday.” NBC News reports that on the Republican side, Ted Cruz claimed victories in Kansas and Maine, while Donald Trump won in the Louisiana primary and Kentucky caucus. In the Democratic race, Bernie Sanders beat Hillary Clinton as he won caucuses in Kansas and Nebraska while Hillary Clinton pulled ahead in the Louisiana primary. Alabama state representative Steve Hurst is proposing a bill requiring convicted sex offenders to be surgically castrated. According to AL.com, the bill targets sex offenders over the age of 21 who have committed sex offenses against children 12 years of age and under. Hurst has introduced the bill before, but it has been met with mixed reactions. While some citizens are for it, others have told him that physically mutilating the offenders is inhumane and qualifies as cruel and unusual punishment. Hurst counters by saying that sexually abusing a child is the truly inhumane act.

Joey Feek of the husband-and-wife country duo Joey + Rory died last Friday after battling cervical cancer for two years. Fox News says the couple attracted attention in the past few months through husband Rory’s blog posts chronicling his wife’s treatment and their faith through all of it. He revealed in a post just a few days earlier that she had been asleep for days and that her body was shutting down. On the day of her passing he wrote, “My wife’s greatest dream came true today. She is in Heaven.” She was 40.

The Alabama Supreme Court has dismissed all petitions to prohibit same sex marriage in the state. According to AL.com, the petitions came from the Alabama Policy Institute, the Alabama Citizens Action Program and Elmore County’s probate judge. They had hoped to get a ruling from the Alabama Supreme Court maintaining their previous order that told probate judges not to issue the licenses. This would eventually lead to an appeal to the US Supreme Court, but as of right now same sex marriage is still intact in Alabama.

load onto their mobile devices. Nowadays, hackers can generally get only a piecemeal view into the iPhone. There is scanning software as well as pass-code-guessing gadgets that can get some data from newer iPhones that are locked and running iOS 8 or iOS 9. But no publicly known process can extract their entire contents the way they could on earlier operating systems. One upside, Strafach said, is that the dried-up market “makes me feel safe to have an iPhone.”



# Non-binary 101: genderfluidity

By LESLIE SMITH

The first thing you have to understand when learning about non-binary genders and people is this: gender is a spectrum, just like sexuality. So I'm going to start you out with some basic knowledge. Your gender and your sex are not the same thing. Sex is biological. It's what we associate our physical parts with. Gender is what children are assigned at birth according to their sex.

There are two traditional genders, called the binary genders: the masculine and the feminine. Non-binary is the catch-all phrase for gender identities that are not exclusively masculine or feminine. These are the identities that exist outside the binary genders and cisnormativity. (The norm set by those who are cisgender, meaning those who identify as the gender they were assigned at birth.)

Everyone's gender identity is different, and everyone has a different way of coming into themselves. For me personally, I have always known that I do not identify as my birth gender. I just never had a word for or idea of other genders until I set out for college. From my experience, one discovers they are non-binary by first questioning what it is to be one of the binary genders. For me it was a lifelong series of questions. It was not until recently that I even considered allowing a more feminine aspect of myself

to emerge. I found myself after an afternoon of digging through various sites and definitions until I found one that spoke to me: genderfluid.

Genderfluid is a gender identity which refers to a changing gender. At any given time, a genderfluid individual may identify as male, female, a neutral in-between gender, any other non-binary identity or a combination of several. Being genderfluid is very similar to the flow of a river. It is constantly changing and altering itself. Genderfluid is only one of many identities within the spectrum.

There are those who do not see themselves as having any gender, called agender. Others see themselves as both masculine and feminine and are called androgynous. Those with multiple gender identities are called bi or pan gender, depending, and those with weak connections to a gender identity are called demigender. I know, I know, this is all overwhelming. It really is. Coming into the gender and sexuality spectrums is very disorienting. We have a lot of terms and overlap. It's okay to not understand at the first info dump. What you can walk away knowing is how to better accommodate those who are non-binary.

Educate yourself. If someone tells you their gender identity, then ask them about it. You are not being rude. As long as you ask in a polite and interested way,



As people become more aware of the idea of the gender spectrum, it's important that we address those who are non-binary with their preferred pronouns.

I promise that the majority of non-binary individuals will be thrilled to explain it to you. We know that the best way for you to know is to hear it from us.

Ask for people's preferred pronouns, and actually use them. A lot of people in the non-binary community have preferred pronouns. I personally prefer the gender neutral them/they/theirs. Some like a combination

of gender neutral and their birth gender. (Ex. They/his, they/hers) While some prefer the opposite of their birth genders, or another non-gendered option. If someone mentions they like a certain set of pronouns, or asks you to call them by something other than the pronoun you are using for them then make an effort to use the preferred pronouns. It means a lot to hear people use the correct set.

If you slip up, then remember immediately after and correct yourself. We'll still appreciate the effort. If we correct you, then just apologize and make an effort in the future to remember. It can be hard to remember, but it isn't as tough as calculus or a medieval research paper. The non-binary community really just wants recognition and respect, but then, isn't that what we all want?



Remember, when flushing, be aware that you may be unleashing a scalding torture on a friend, neighbor or innocent bystander.

# The rain of terror

By ALLI PATTON

You know it when you hear it. That gut-wrenching, nightmare-provoking sound. You listen from your curtained cave, as the distant water swirls around the porcelain bowl, getting sucked into the pipes on a voyage to Narnia-esque sewage plants. You know to move out of the line of fire and wait for the liquid inferno to pass.

That flesh melting devil water you are now dodging is the result of some kind soul flushing the toilet. You may try to adjust the two knobs, but what's the use? One reads hot, the other, cold. But in this situation, they might as well read "hell fire" and "Satan's piss."

The showers have already been drained of quality by their

poor water pressure and hair-covered tile walls, but throw in the frequent fountains of lava that cascade from those shower heads, and you've hit the trifecta.

The horror all starts with the sound of footsteps, which you pray belong to a fellow showerer. Then comes the heart-dropping, metallic ring of the stall's lock scraping into place, and that's when the five stages of grief set in.

First is denial. It hits hard like a freight train. This involves avoidance and blame.

Next up is anger. Understandable.

Depression is the third and most helpless stage.

Bargaining comes next, but to no avail.

You may not even get to reach the final stage of acceptance and

inner peace before that toilet gets flushed and you're sent bobbing and weaving to the corner. The pain and anguish will stay with you for the next hour, post-shower, while you wait for the skin on your back and arms to go from lobster red to at least a pinker shade of crustacean.

When it comes to showering, the options you are left with are slim. One of those being four in the morning washes. Another could be investing in a lot of baby wipes and forgetting the luxury of a shower. Embracing the suck is the final choice. Take your pick.

My plea to the culprits is that you please do your business whenever and wherever a shower is not taking place. There is also no harm in letting it mellow.

# Record high Alabama voter turnout still low

By AMALIA KORTRIGHT

There is a common misconception, especially among people my age, that our votes don't count. I woke up early to get to my polling place, expecting that there would be a long line and that casting my ballot would take up a large chunk of time. Instead, I was the only one there under 40, and I managed to complete the entire process in less than 20 minutes.

I voted blue in a predominately red state, for the lesser known of the Democratic candidates. The odds of my candidate winning in Alabama were slim to none, but the best thing about the electoral process is that you can still have hope until all of the ballots are counted.

The results of Super Tuesday were painful to behold. I wasn't surprised that Hillary Clinton had won the Democratic primary, but I was appalled at who we collectively chose as a state for the Republican nominee. Donald Trump openly mocks disabled people, women and Muslims. His proposed plans to build a wall between the U.S. and Mexico could be grounds for impeachment if he became president. And yet, the majority of the Republicans in Alabama chose him.

Still, I was more taken aback by the fact that Alabama only had about a 40 percent voter turnout. According to Alabama Secretary of State John Merrill, that was

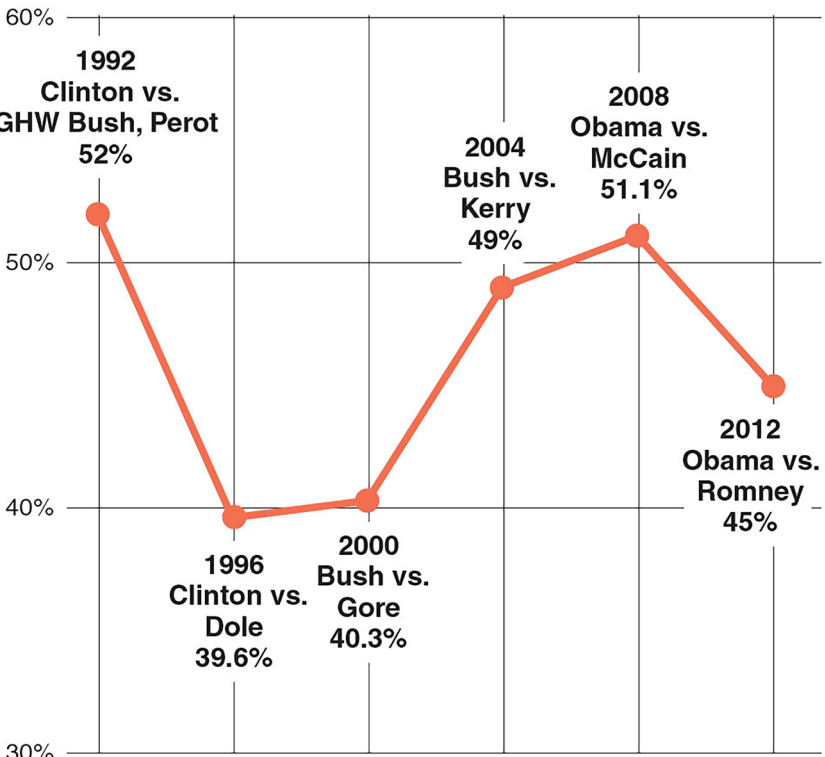
actually considered a record high.

Millennials are a scared and angry generation. We mistrust the government. We don't feel knowledgeable or equipped to handle this political climate, and we're vocal about it. If you walk into the caf, there's the possibility of hearing a heated political discussion. We share political memes and jokes on social media. So why are we not voting?

The Secular Student Alliance at Montevallo hosted guest speaker Chuck Miller on Friday, March 4, and he talked specifically about the importance of the millennial vote. The irony was not lost on me that the event about low voter turnouts had a low turnout. During the discussion, Miller talked about how much of a difference could be made if young people were more politically active. He explained that while we are more than capable of forming educated views on politics, we still let ourselves believe that we are

## Young voters and presidential races

Percentage of 18- to 29-year-olds who reported voting



Source: The Center for Information & Research on Civic Learning and Engagement  
Graphic: Michael Hogue, Dallas Morning News/TNS

outnumbered.

Miller also mentioned that to make a change, more people have to vote from the bottom up. Believe it or not, presidential elections aren't the only important ones. It is imperative that we vote to ensure that we are accurately

represented in Congress and the Senate, as well as within our counties and our hometowns. We are faced with a plethora of options on how to instill political change in our cities, states and country. The only thing we have to do is make a choice.

## The Alabamian

Farmer Hall,  
Behind Post Office  
Station 6222  
Montevallo, AL 35115  
alabamian@montevallo.edu

- Editor-in-Chief**  
Reed Strength
- Layout Editor**  
Adrienne Dauma
- Business Manager**  
Stephanie Howe
- Managing Editor of Content**  
Jasmyne Ray
- Photography Editor**  
Katie Compton
- Copy Editor**  
Jake Smith
- Online editor**  
Lily Elmore
- Contributing writers**  
Danielle Stallworth  
Geordie Kennedy  
Alli Patton  
Alex Tejada  
Amalia Kortright  
Leslie Smith  
Candice Crutchfield
- Adviser**  
Tiffany Bunt



# ANDERSON Eyecare

205.665.2020

977 Main Street Montevallo



- contacts
- glasses
- eye exams

Free Vision Screening to University Students

REMEMBER: your medical insurance covers red, itchy, stinging eyes

## Yellow Cab fights for relevance in ride-hail age

By JENNIFER VAN GROVE  
The San Diego Union Tribune

For a man who’s losing cash and cachet to the much-less-regulated ride-hail companies such as Uber and Lyft, you’d think Anthony Palmeri, president of Yellow Cab in San Diego, would have a big chip on his shoulder

Maybe he does, but Palmeri would rather talk about his button.

That’s because this “Ride Yellow” button, inspired by Staples’ large, red “Easy” button, is part of Palmeri’s multipronged effort to win back drivers and riders to the beleaguered taxi industry.

The button, the first of its kind in the country, according to Palmeri, is a pure business-to-business play. Equipped with individual SIM cards, the buttons are designed for use by local hotels, hospitals and restaurants that want to provide fast access to taxis for their patrons. Press it, and a cab is routed to pick up a passenger.

“The button tells the driver exactly where you’re located,” Palmeri said. “Everybody loves the buttons.”

Obviously, the implications are far less grandiose than something consumer-facing. So the local Yellow Cab chief, 71, has also created another button of sorts, but this is one the general public can press.

Launched in San Diego in time for New Year’s Eve, the Ride Yellow smartphone app replicates the digital, push-button process invented by Yellow Cab’s technology rivals.

It’s everything you’ve come to appreciate about on-demand transportation, with a few extras.

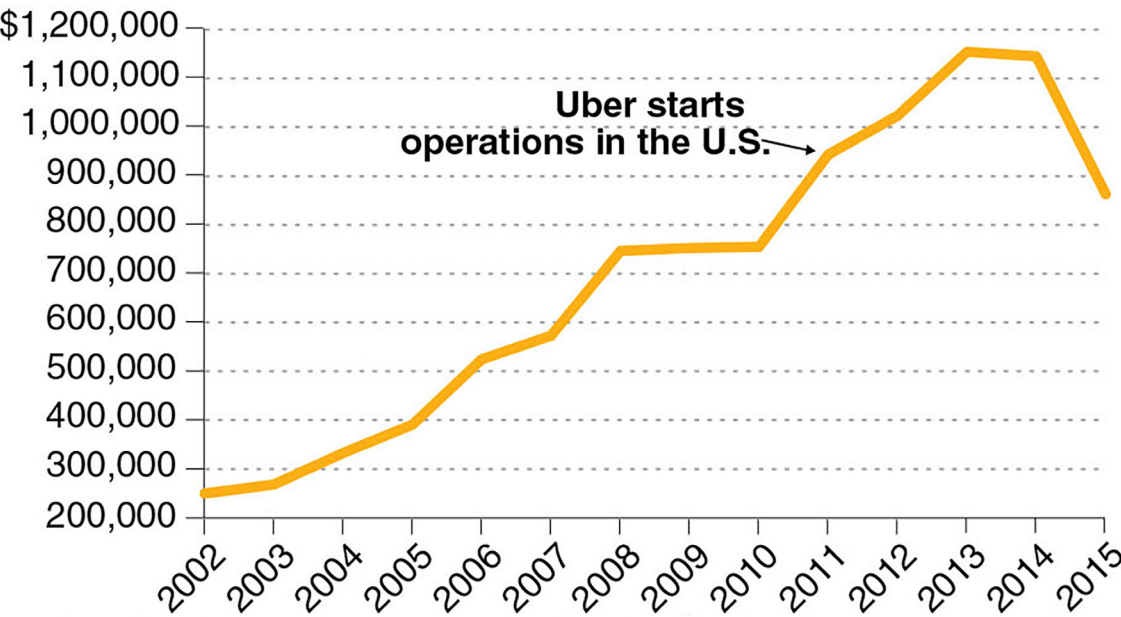
The app locates nearby taxis, lets passengers request a ride for now or later, allows riders to track drivers who are en route and offers app-based payment options. Or you can pay in cash.

Perhaps the most innovative thing about the Ride Yellow app, however, isn’t its technology but its hard right turn from standard taxi rates. Cab companies are no-

### Taxi vs Uber

Prices of taxi medallions in New York City have started to decline following Uber’s entry into the market

Price of New York City taxi medallion, 2002–2015



Source: World Bank  
Graphic: Tribune News Service

toriously reluctant to lower prices, in part because they don’t want to anger drivers, who work as independent contractors, but also because the cost of doing business includes costly insurance policies.

In San Diego, most taxis charge customers a \$2.80 base fare, \$3 a mile and \$24 an hour for waiting time. Compare that with UberX’s and Lyft’s rates, which run about 10 cents per minute and 90 cents per mile, and consumers aren’t presented with much of an incentive to hail a cab over the alternative.

So, Palmeri has emulated his competition once again, slashing Ride Yellow’s fares to appeal to the Uber crowd.

App customers pay \$2 for the base fare, \$2 per mile and \$20 an hour for idle time. And there are no “surge” rates, which means that unlike Uber or Lyft, the app doesn’t charge more during peak

hours when demand is highest. The customer savings are ultimately extracted from drivers’ earnings, of course, but that’s the reality of today’s taxi market, Palmeri insists.

“(Drivers) like \$3 over \$2,” Palmeri said, “and they like \$2 over \$0.”

Creating apps and buttons is the easy part. Reconditioning customers to take a taxi when they’ve come to expect something cheaper and faster from Uber or Lyft is the harder task. And as anyone who has taken a cab ride knows, stellar customer service isn’t exactly a hallmark of the taxi industry.

To combat negative perceptions, Palmeri is instructing Yellow Cab drivers to open car doors, refrain from talking on the phone while driving or speaking in foreign languages, and treat passengers to complimentary

water or mints.

It’s these little details that Palmeri hopes will level the playing field, even if patrons are still paying more for essentially the same service. Of course, the taxi industry would argue that’s because cabs are held by law to a higher standard, including fingerprint background checks on drivers and more comprehensive insurance plans.

“This is me truly fighting back, fighting back for the customers that I lost, fighting back to stay as alive as I can be in this market,” Palmeri said.

Yellow Cab drivers, who either own their vehicles or lease them from other owners, aren’t Palmeri’s direct employees. They’re merely paying to the use the executive’s dispatch service, which includes the right to drive around in characteristically yellow-colored cars.

## This day in history

By DANIELLE STALLWORTH

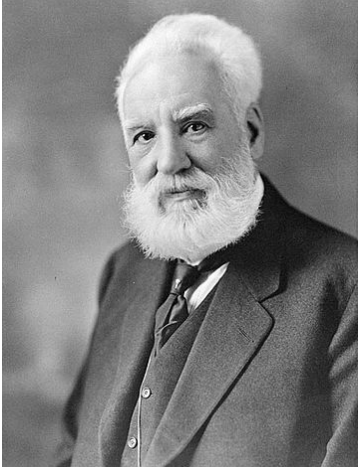
On March 10, 1876, the first successful telephone call was made by Alexander Graham Bell.

His assistant, Thomas Watson, was on the receiving end in Paris, Ontario, about 10 miles from Bell’s location in Brantford, Ontario.

According to Watson, Bell spoke into the device, saying “Mr. Watson, come here. I want to see you,” and Watson replied. These words became so famous that he used them in his public demonstrations of the telephone.

On his phone in New York, Bell said the same line to Watson, who was in San Francisco. Watson joked that it would take him a week to get there.

Bell’s success with long distance calling inspired him to create other inventions, including the first wireless telephone, the photophone.

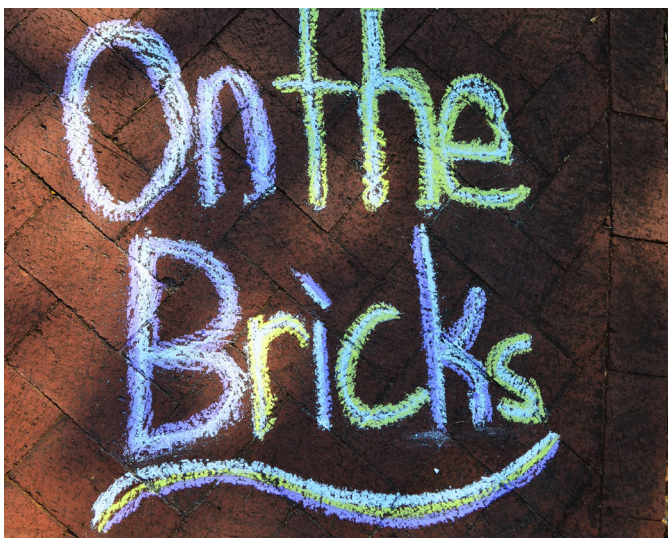


Some have followed the lead of riders and have defected to Uber or Lyft. But some are also venturing back, Palmeri insists, because they can’t make a living on the low wages offered by the competition.

Of course, cab drivers won’t be able to make much of a living without customer demand, but Palmeri is adamant that Yellow Cab San Diego is still a viable business.

“We’re not even close to closing our doors.”





with  
**Madison Griggs**

1. Do you think it's important for people to vote?

2. What do you think would motivate more people to get out and vote?

3. What's your personal reaction to the primary results?



The  
Alabamian  
Recommends

**"Zootopia" (PG)**  
The surprisingly well-crafted storyline and attention to detail shine through in Disney's latest animated feature. The story of Judy Hopps, a rabbit with law enforcement aspirations, hits upon several important cultural issues: police profiling, racism and stereotyping. These tough subjects are broken down to a level children can understand, with all the right action-packed chase scenes and animal puns to keep everyone engaged. One of Disney's best films in recent years, "Zootopia" will have you planning to buy the DVD before you've even left the theater.

**"Not That Kind of Girl" by Lena Dunham**  
During the craziest time in my life, one thing that gave me comfort was knowing that someone else's life was crazier than mine. "Not That Kind of Girl" is Dunham's life story in a nutshell. Featuring anecdotes about love, sex and a hilariously racist field trip activity, the memoir is gut bustingly funny, heartwarming, hopeful and just smartly written.

**"Fire Emblem Fates"**  
If you're looking for a game to give you an engaging story, wonderfully written characters, hours upon hours of play time and possibly a major brain hemorrhage, then look no further than the latest installment in this iconic and legitimately challenging strategy RPG series. Tasking players with leading a ragtag army of "knights, archers, mages and more," this fourteenth entry features three distinct and fully formed games: "Birthright," "Conquest" and "Revelation." Each game stands alone, and you can download the other two installments for half price once you get the base cartridge for your 3DS. If you're a Nintendo fan, you owe it to yourself to get on board with this killer franchise.

**Aaron Jones**  
*Freshman theater major*

1. "It's the most important right Americans have. I've heard a lot of people talk about voting for Bernie Sanders, but he didn't win. They can't complain about problems if they don't get out and vote."  
2. "I'd have to say just more enlightenment on the process. They should educate people our age about what could happen if you don't vote."  
3. "Dumbfounded, but also not surprised. I knew Trump would win, but Hillary surprised me."

**Jerrell High**  
*Junior marketing major*

1. "Yes, because you don't want someone stupid running the country."  
2. "Money is the only thing that motivates people. Or food."  
3. "I don't want either of them to be president."

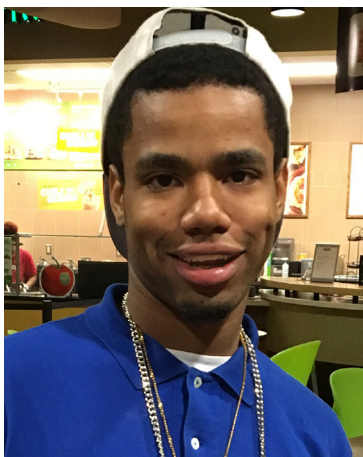


**Asia Nicole Lilly**  
*Sophomore theater major*

1. "I do because it's important that you get everyone's opinions. Everyone has a choice and a right to vote for who they want."  
2. "Good candidates. It always depends on who's running"  
3. "When I heard I was like, what is the world coming to? Like Trump? Really?"

**Kerry Daniels**  
*Junior history major*

1. "Yes, because you want to make sure your future is right, and everything is in your best interest."  
2. "If we could pick the people running from the start, people would go vote."  
3. "I was a little disappointed on that one."



FREE

JACQUIE COTILLARD  
SKRIMLEN / SOJII

TUFT  
CRIMSON CABINS / B. SNIPES

KIA CAVALLARO  
ABRAHAM & THE OLD GODS

POETRY SLAM

BELLE OF THE FALL  
WANDA WESOLOWSKI

ECLIPSE  
COFFEE AND BOOKS

EVENTS

**FALCON SUPPLY**  
UN ALUM OWNED AND OPERATED

central Alabama's Only Art Store

Painting    Drawing    Photography  
Book Making    Ceramics    Fabric Arts  
Printmaking    mixed & new medias

**LARSON · JUHL**

CUSTOM FRAMING SHOP

QUICK MATTING - CUSTOM MATS, WHITE OR BLACK STARTING AT 5.00. TURN AROUND 72 HOURS OR LESS !

like us on Facebook

623 MAIN ST MONTEVALLO  
ACROSS FROM EL AGAVE

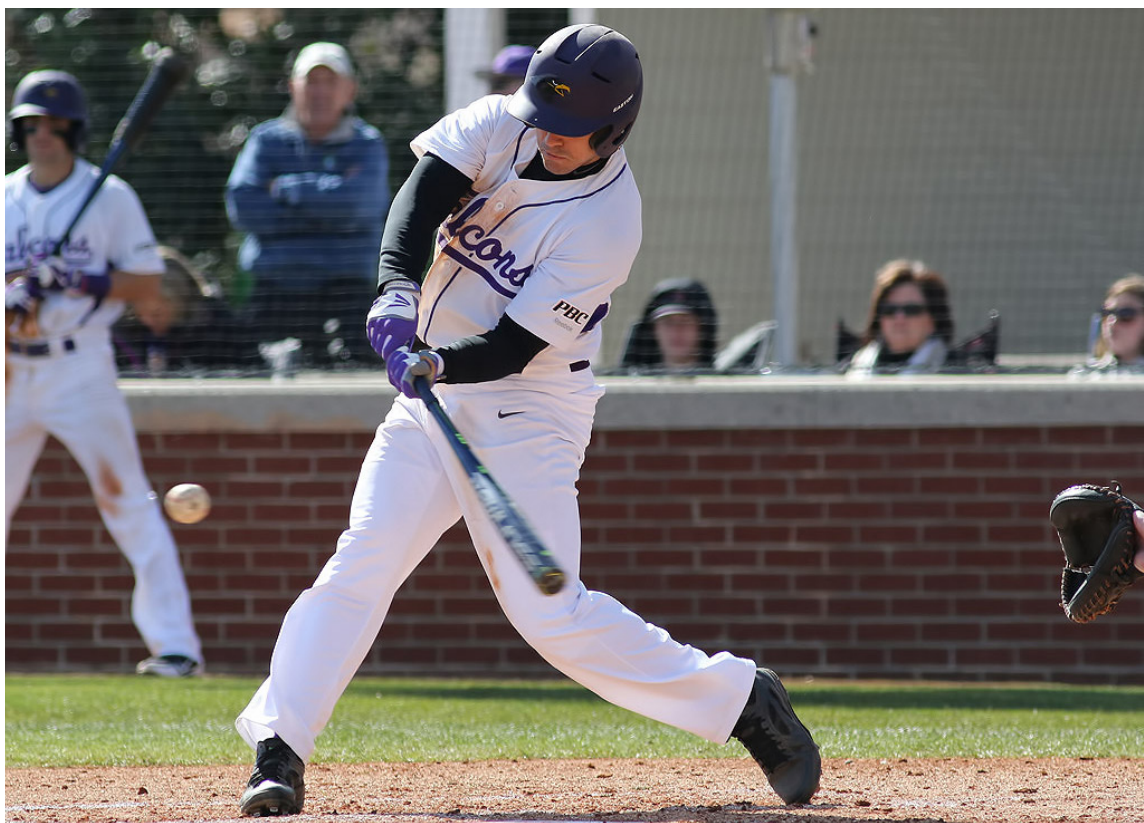
9AM TO 5PM MON - FRI.  
10AM TO 3PM SATURDAY

205-665-2237  
FALCONARTSUPPLY.COM









The falcons' success at the beginning of the season shows promise for the rest of it.

Photo courtesy of Montevallo Athletics

# Baseball off to winning start

By ALEX TEJADA

After a rough start against Saint Leo, the Falcons baseball team took down Ohio Valley at home before disposing of in-state opponents Spring Hill and Miles. The Falcons went on to win two of their three games against UNC Pembroke before losing three games to Augusta and one to Miles College. March has seen an improvement in results, as Montevallo has steadied the ship thanks to a double-header win over Tuskegee and a three game sweep of Francis Marion. With conference play underway, the Falcons sit middle of the pack in the Peach Belt.

Three Falcons have taken home Peach Belt player of the

week honors. Jamison Roney won freshman of the week for his pitching against UNC Pembroke in which he saw six scoreless in-nings. Cody Hughes won pitcher of the week for his massive performance against Francis Marion, who the Falcons outscored 39-9 over a three game series. Daniel Pardo won the overall player of the week honor on March 7 for his 14 RBI's and four home runs, while hitting .474. However, the star of the early part of the season has been Taylor Walker. He has hit .525 on the season and has amassed 31 runs, 34 RBI's and eight home runs. The Falcons hope to capitalize on these strong performances and add more wins to their solid record.

# Men's basketball earns trip to 7th consecutive NCAA tournament

By ALEX TEJADA

Montevallo's impressive senior night performance was followed up by an 84-67 win at Young Harris for the final regular season game. Bryant Orange had a mas-sive night with 21 points and six rebounds, assists and steals.

The 18-8 regular season record was enough to allow the Falcons to host a Peach Belt Quarterfinal matchup against Armstrong State. In front of the Trustmark Arena crowd, where the Falcons have been the most deadly, Montevallo outlasted the Pirates 76-71 in a tight encounter. Terrell Lip-kins was the star player on this occasion with 21 points, eight rebounds, six assists and three steals.

The following weekend fea-tured the Peach Belt Semifinals

hosted by Columbus State. The hosts caught the upset bug and were shocked by an impressive Augusta team, who were making a late run to try to gain an NCAA Tournament bid. Montevallo spurned the chance to meet Augusta after a heartbreaking one point loss to Lander, who were eventual champions. Tevin Worthy and Lipkins scored 15 points each with Malik Fields and Vaughn Autry providing 12 points each from the bench, but the Falcons lost a back-and-forth nail biter by a score of 71-70. The only thing left to do was to wait to see if their season was impres-sive enough to gain a tournament bid.

The NCAA Southeast Region Tournament features three Peach Belt teams and will be held in Harrogate, Tennessee on the

campus of Lincoln Memorial the weekend of March 12. Columbus State captured a number five seed and will play Queens. The Falcons received a number six seed, and Lander had to settle for an eight seed and will play the hosts. Mon-tevallo's opponents are Wingate, with the winner facing the winner of Lenoir-Rhyne and King. The regional final will be held on Tuesday, March 15. Outside of the dominant hosts, the southeast region looks extremely compet-itive. All eight teams are quite even and have similar overall records. Augusta's late season run was not enough for them to earn a spot as the fourth Peach Belt team represented.

Montevallo's first round opponent, the Wingate Bulldogs from North Carolina, have a 22-9 overall record. They have played

two Peach Belt teams this year, beating UNC Pembroke before losing to Augusta. They have a 2-1 record against Queens and split their two games against Le-noir-Rhyne. They have lost to the hosts, Lincoln Memorial, three times this year, including in the final of the SAC Tournament. The Bulldogs star player is junior Isiah Cureton, but they also have fresh-man sensation Mike Baez, who averages 13.3 points per game. Upperclassmen Xavier Griffin and Anthanee Doyle have started all 31 games this season and will look to have a big influence on the game.

Montevallo will have to be at their best this weekend in order to advance to the Elite Eight in Frisco, Texas. The Falcons have Lipkins' 21.7 points per game and Orange's 7.1 rebounds per game

to rely on, but Montevallo will require a team effort, including a strong bench performance to knock off the other elite teams in the southeast region. Worthy, Fields and Talan Whitaker have dominated the rebounds while Autry and Logan Kelley have pro-vided a three-point threat. How-ever, the X-factor in the game might be junior Kevin Kelly. The junior from Houston, Texas does not fill up the stat sheet, but his effort and aggressive style of play has led to many opposing turnovers.

The team of transfer players that Danny Young has impres-sively put together has improved as the season has worn on and the players have grown comfort-able with each other. On a good day, the Falcons look capable of beating anyone in Division II basketball, but they also have had a problem with closing out games and losing on buzzer beating shots. The Falcons are playing their best basketball at the best time, but the ultimate test will be this weekend in Tennessee.



The Falcons are looking to finish their 19-9 season with a victory in Tennessee at the PBC championship

Photo courtesy of Montevallo Athletics

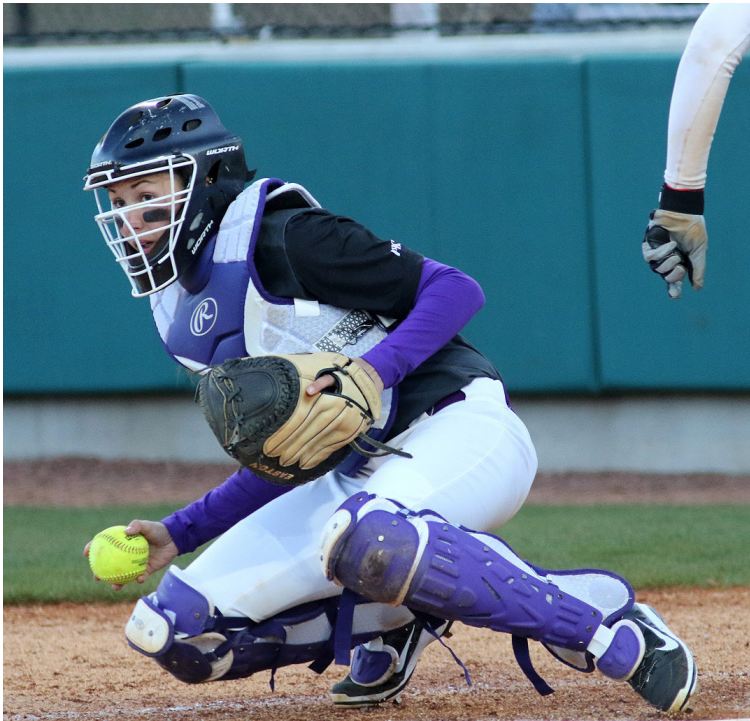
# Softball shows emerging strengths

By ALEX TEJADA

Montevallo softball has had an unremarkable start to the season at 10-13 but have not yet gotten into their Peach Belt schedule. Montevallo has competed mostly in tournaments, as they have picked up wins and losses at the Gulf Shores Tournament and HBCU Leadoff Classic as well as the UM Falcon Frenzy which they hosted. Lander and USC Aiken come to town this weekend to take on the Falcons as con-ference play gets underway. The following weekend sees two more home series, this time against Columbus State and Georgia Southwestern. The Falcons will play in Puerto Rico at the end of March before a busy April of conference games.

Despite their average start, Montevallo outfielder Kelsey Vining leads the Peach Belt with

a .514 batting average. She has also stolen 17 bases and taken home the Peach Belt Player of the Week honor for the last week in February. She has had a massive start to the season, perhaps high-lighted by a winning run against Flagler. Junior Jocelyn Rivera has led the team in strikeouts and saves from the mound. Jostlyn Higgerson and Abbey Pratt have pitched many innings, as well as senior Jana Kelbie Armstrong. Shelby Lopez and Celestia Davila have also started the season with impressive batting averages. With a busy month already underway, the Falcons hope a winning streak can place them in the top half of the conference. The signs of success have been apparent for the softball team nonetheless, and the Falcons will hope to be competing for more than individual honors in May.



The Falcons are beginning to show signs of improment as the season wears on.

Photo courtesy of Montevallo Athletics

# Hilbrich resigns as head coach

By REED STRENGTH

On Monday, March 1, Cindy Hilbrich announced her resigna-tion from her position as Head Women's Basketball Coach at the University.

According to a press release, Hilbrich took over the women's basketball program in April 2011 and coached the Falcons to a 38-90 record during her five seasons as head coach. Hilbrich led Montevallo to the Peach Belt Conference Tournament during the 2011-12 and 2012-13 seasons.

"I feel like with my career, I've really had to work for what I have. I don't take it for granted," Hilbrich said in a 2012 interview with The Alabamian.

"We want to thank Cindy for her hard work and commitment over the past five years," said Montevallo Athletic Director Mark Richard in the release.

A national search for a new head women's basketball coach will begin immediately.



Photo courtesy of Montevallo Athletics

After five years with the team, Hilbrich has resigned as head women's basketball coach.